HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD

HAER ORE 18-ODLA 1-

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HAER No. OR-92

Southern Pacific Railroad Natron Cutoff, Tunnel 3 (Summit Tunnel)
Milepost 537.77
Odell Lake vicinity
Klamath and Lanc Counties
Oregon

For written information regarding Tunnel 3, please refer to Southern Pacific Railroad Natron Cutoff (HAER No. CA-217). Note also that all references to tunnel portals are given in Southern Pacific Railroad terminology. Headquartered in San Francisco, the SP considered all trains heading away from San Francisco to be eastbound, all trains heading toward San Francisco to be westbound, regardless of actual cardinal direction. Thus a train heading north from Los Angeles to Portland would be westbound until it passed San Francisco, at which time it would become eastbound. Similarly, the railroad referred to all tunnels and other structures along its lines in the same fashion, with tunnels always having west and east portals. Direction of view in the captions will indicate cardinal direction.

Documentation: 4 photographs (1997)

Ed Andersen, Photographer John Snyder, Field Director

PHOTOGRAPHS

- OR-92-1 West portal of Tunnel 3, contextual view to north from milepost 537.6, 210mm lens. The single-lens searchlight-type block signals are Southern Pacific Common Standard signals, a type in use since the 1920s. Many of these have been replaced system-wide as a result of various mergers since the 1980s. Located in the Diamond Peak Wilderness of Willamette National Forest, Tunnel 3 passes beneath Pengra Pass.
- OR-92-2 West portal of Tunnel 3, oblique view to north-northwest, 135mm lens. Note the simple concrete portal face and wingwalls, characteristic of the later (1923-27) period of construction on the Natron Cutoff. Note also the extreme surface spalling of the concrete, evidence of the severe freeze-thaw cycle at this elevation.
- OR-92-3 East portal of Tunnel 18, contextual view to southeast, 210mm lens.
- OR-92-4 East portal of Tunnel 18, view to south-southeast, 210mm lens. Compare the condition of the concrete at this portal, located some 350 feet lower than the west portal and on the sheltered north side of the pass, with that of the west portal in photo 1.